CHAPTER XVIII.

The Puzzle.

Rusty Wren looked quite crestfallen as he listened to his wife's wail. He wished that he had heeded her warning, when she declared that his hiring a boy would certainly lead to trouble.

"What's the matter with you?" Rusty asked his helper, Chippy, jr. "When you first came to work for us you could slip through our doorway easily enough. But now you're altogether too big."

Chippy, jr., said that the entrance to their house must have shrunk.

"How could it?" Rusty demanded impatiently.

"It rained last night," the youngster reminded him.

But Rusty Wren said, "Nonsense! The doorway's made of tin

"So you can't scare me by your threats."

—not wood. You have grown—that's the whole trouble! And you've got us into a pretty fix."

"I begin to think that it was all planned this way by his father," Mrs. Rusty told her husband, "so Mr. Chippy wouldn't have to take care of his son. But I don't intend to adopt a big, overgrown boy like him—not when I have six small children of my own!"

Chippy, jr., couldn't help feeling both uncomfortable and unhappy.

"I want to go home!" he blubbered. "It's almost my bedtime. And my father and my mother won't like it at all if I stay here all night."

"Well," said Rusty Wren, "I don't know how you're going to leave our house if you can't squeeze through the door. So I'll hurry over and tell your father about this trouble, and he can break the news gently to your mother."

Then Rusty went off, flying directly to the stone wall where the Chippy family lived. And soon he was explaining to Mr. Chippy how his son was inside their house and couldn't leave.

Now Mr. Chippy was unusually mild mannered. But he became greatly excited as soon as he heard Rusty's story.

"It's just like being caught in a trap!" he exclaimed. "And I can't help feeling that you've played a trick on my son—probably to please Johnnie Green. . . . If you don't let my boy free tomorrow morning at daybreak I shall certainly make trouble for you."

Mr. Chippy's warning amazed Rusty Wren. But he couldn't help laughing at the idea of anybody causing him any trouble.

"I'm so deep in trouble now," he told Mr. Chippy, "there's nothing you can do to make matters any worse for me. I've six growing children to bring up, and now I have your son to take care of, and my wife thinks everything is my fault, because I wanted to hire a boy to help me catch insects.

"So you can't scare me by your threats. I only wish you would come to my house and take your son away with you—if you can."

"I'll come—and I'll tear your house down!" Mr. Chippy cried fiercely. And he began screaming, "Chip, chip, chip, chip," in a very shrill voice which was most annoying to hear.

Rusty Wren did not like to listen to him. So he flew back home and went to bed. He only wished that it were possible for Mr. Chippy to break into his house and rescue Chippy, jr. But since the house was made of tin, Rusty knew that Mr. Chippy was helpless.

"I'll never settle in a tin house again so long as I live!" he groaned.

(Copyright, Grosset & Dunlap.)

THE GUMPS— ANDY'S CONDITION IMPROVES

Drawn for The Bee by Sidney Smith.

What Do You Know?

(Here's a chance to make your wit worth money. Each day The Bee will publish a series of questions. They cover things which you should know. The first complete list of correct answers and the name of the winner will be published on the day indicated below. Be sure to give your views and address in full. Address "Questions Editor," Omaha Bee.)

WEDNESDAY'S ANSWERS.

1. Which has the greater specific gravity, cream or milk? Milk.
2. What is the effect of moving the decimal point one place to the right? Increases value of number 10 times.
3. What naval officer wears an anchor and four stars on his collar? Admiral.
4. What race predominates in Asia? Yellow race.
5. Ho wlong does i ttake the moon to go around the earth? About 29 days.

Winner: Frank Russell, 3315 Davenport street, Omaha, Neb.

Machinery molders in Bangor, Me., have established a rate of $7.20 for an eight-hour day.

I'M THE GUY

I'M THE GUY the garage employs whom you trust to put your car in shape, and doesn't do what he's paid for.

Why should I bother to fill all your grease cups, and put oil in your crank case, and clean your spark plugs, and put distilled water in your storage battery, and do the dozen fussy little things you're paying for when you'll never know I didn't do it until something goes wrong?

If you get stalled on the road because I slacked on the job I won't be there to hear you bawl me out.

It isn't my car, so I should fret about what may happen to it. If you want to be sure verything's done right, why don't you attend to it yourself.

Some other guy may get the job next time, but that's up to you. There are plenty of others with cars and enough of 'em come into our shop to give me all the work I want to do.

If you complain to the boss I can always frame up an alibi. I can say I was called off the job before I finished and then forgot or I can say you're talking through your hat and that the work was done. How are you going to prove anything, anyway?

Copyright, 1920, Thompson Feature Service.

Parents Problems

How can a democratic spirit best be inculcated in growing children?

This can best be done by giving them many opportunities to meet many different kinds of persons; the most democratic persons are those who are most cosmopolitan.

Omaha Man Elected Head Of Movie Theater Owners

Three Omaha moving picture men were elected to important offices in the state organization of motion picture theater owners at the concluding session of the convention here today. They are A. R. Pramer, who was elected president; Harry Goldberg, who was made chairman of the executive board, and J. E. Kirk, elected secretary. Other officers elected were George Munroe of Beatrice, vice president; J. C. Jenkins of Neligh, second vice president, and S. A. Hayman of Grand Island, treasurer.

The national railway strike last year cost the British unions more than a quarter of a million dollars.

WHY?—

Does a Stick Seem to Bend When Placed in Water?

(Copyright, 1920, by The Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.)

In the days before the manufacture of glass was as well perfected as it is today, mirrors with uneven, imperfect surfaces were often turned out. When one looked into these, the face would appear to be distorted or bent out of shape, owing to the different angles at which the light was reflected.

Much the same thing occurs when we place a stick in the water so that one end is above the surface and the other end below. There appears to be a distinct bend in the stick, the part below water looking like it makes a complete angle with the portion above. This is due, not to any action of the water upon the stick, but to an alteration in the direction of the rays of light, known as "refraction." The air and the water being of different densities, the light cannot pass through both of them in the same direction, and it is the rays themselves—rather than the stick—which are bent or distorted, though we have the impression that the stick has been affected. Increased knowledge of the principles, which govern reflection, refraction, and other courses of light, have, in comparatively recent years made a possibility the great improvements of the microscope the telephone, the camera and other apparatus in which light plays a leading part.